

Received & Inspected

- RE: CG Docket No. 03-123
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
445 Twelfth Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

JUN 23 2009
FCC Mail Room

Dear Chairman Copps, Commissioners Adelstein and McDowell:

Video Relay Service has improved greatly because the FCC initiated a stable, predictable and fair three-year rate plan fifteen months ago. We understand that the FCC is inexplicably considering abruptly changing the VRS rate for the 2009 – 2010 rate year.

The FCC adopted the three-year rate methodology after 16 months of deliberation and considering thousands of pages of comments. Now, the FCC is proposing to change the rate with just weeks for public comment.

VRS is succeeding – it is available to more in the Deaf community, service quality has improved, hold times have dropped, interpreter training and recruitment have expanded, and new videophones have been developed. The stable, fair and predictable three-year rate plan is critical to improving VRS and moving towards functionally equivalent telecommunications for the Deaf. The Deaf still do not have the functional equivalence mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act, but every improvement in VRS moves the Deaf closer to the fulfillment of that mandate. Why would the FCC suddenly, with virtually no notice, and only weeks for comment, undermine what has been working?

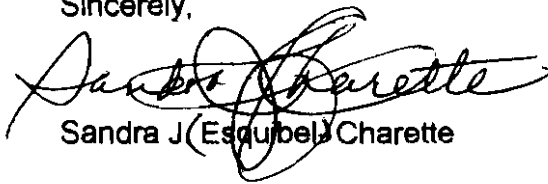
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FCC at the same time, in defiance of the President's leadership on this issue, will undercut this vital broadband-based service to the Deaf?

I strongly urge the FCC to focus on how to improve VRS, not destroy it. It is simply not right to crush progress towards functional equivalence and tell Deaf people they deserve only second class telecommunications.

Sincerely,



Sandra J. (Esquibel) Charette

PS: we are serious keeping Vrs open and keep running for ever.... This very important we need this VRS with VP are keeping & running . since we are not wanting to lost VRS if VRS close so we will be stuck, how to contact with Vrs interpreting for deaf with A to Z of doc, job, SSA Office, police, fire station, 911 ,etc. and need call some hearing families. Cause we will be possible keeping VRS relay, don't block and close , please keep open Cause we are real love with VRS is this TOP BEST NUMBER ONE! So we are serious keep VRS open !!!!

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Sincerely,

Dell Days of Deals! June 15-24 - A New Deal Everyday!

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Jennifer ERBITO

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Sincerely,

Joyce M. Allen

12/18/09 10:00 AM
12/18/09
12/18/09

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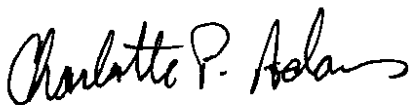
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Sincerely,  6/17/09

*Tom & Charlotte Adams
9661 Chutney Court
Jacksonville, FL 32221
Jesus Loves You.*


JUN 23 2009

June 17, 2009

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445 Twelfth Street SW
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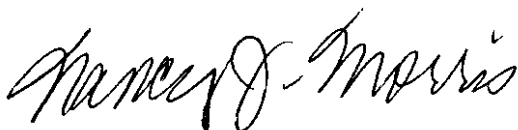
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Sincerely,



Nancy J. Morris
15335 Falmouth Ave.
Houston, TX 77084-1412

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LISTA B C D E

19 June 2009

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Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
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Washington, DC 20554

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FCC Mail Room

Dear Chairman Copps, Commissioners Adelstein and McDowell:

I am a Deaf person and I use Video Relay Service (VRS) to communicate in American Sign Language (ASL).

I was and am still appalled at FCC staff's intent on drastically cutting the VRS rate, and effectively cutting VRS availability for the Deaf. Instead of seeking to limit the number of Deaf people with VRS access, the FCC should do everything in its power to make VRS available to more Deaf people. I, along with other Deaf individuals, use these services in both my work and personal life. It is an important way in which I/we communicate with both hearing and Deaf individuals.

I should also add that there is a lot of hearing people who are very fortunate to still be employed. It is because deaf VRS consumers help them keep their business. They both make calls through VRS! Doctors, hospitals, lawyers, and courts love VRS!


I urge you to do everything you can to make VRS service available to the many Deaf people who currently do not have access to this vital, life-changing service.


The VRS rate should encourage the VRS providers to:

- Serve more Deaf people, not discourage them from reaching out to more Deaf people
- Improve service and technology so the mandate of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for functionally equivalent telecommunications services is met, along with other Deaf individuals, their families and co-workers, depend on VRS and other relay services.

Please stop any VRS program cuts and fulfill the mandate of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to provide Deaf people with functionally equivalent telecommunications services.

Thank you.


Dr. Donald K. Ammons
12150 NW 77th Manor
Parkland, Florida 33076
donaldakay@aol.com


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Sincerely,

Kathryn Becker
(Kathryn Becker)

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LSIA BODE

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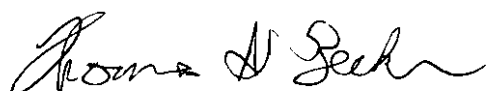
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Sincerely,

Thomas A. Becker


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USA 30 DE

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Sincerely,

Harley Allen

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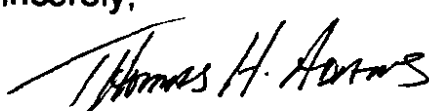
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Jesus Loves You.

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What You Can Do Now:

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Send an email to the FCC

This email includes FCC email addresses and sample email text you can use.

* First Patricia

Name:

* Last Steinke

Name:

* Email: pallied@hotmail.com

Message: RE: CG Docket No. 03-123

Dear Chairman Copps,
Commissioners Adelstein
and McDowell:

I am a Deaf person and I
use Video Relay Service
(VRS) to communicate. I

* Indicates required
field

Send

SMTP Error: Data not accepted.

Or Write a Letter to the FCC

You can write your own message or just copy and paste the text below —insert your own name:

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Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
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Dear Chairman Copps, Commissioners Adelstein and

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McDowell:

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Sincerely,

Patricia E. Steinke

*I love to use VRS to help me to understand
clear and save my time. Please keep VRS
~~business~~ business and don't cut VRS that is
very important for deaf people to understand.*

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Sincerely,
Diane Souder

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The following is a copy of the original document.

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Or Write a Letter to the FCC

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Sincerely,

[Insert Your Name Here]

Douglas M. Williams



Forward this information to a Friend

Click here to help spread the word and forward to a friend. Simply type a short message and send them a link to this Web page.

No. of Copies Made 0
LISTA BODE

*Yes, I want to keep
Video Relay Service,
might my life
every day -*

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Sincerely,

Mary Burns
of Brooksville, FL
34602

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Floyd Malone
Carolyn J. Malone

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10/20/09

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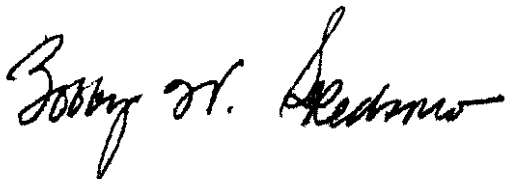
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Sincerely,



Bobby Skedsmo

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1343275

Received & Inspected
JUN 23 2009
FCC Mail Room

Or Write a Letter to the FCC

You can write your own message or just copy and paste the text below
—insert your own name—

RE: CG Docket No. 03-123
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
445 Twelfth Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Copps, Commissioners Adelstein and McDowell

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Sincerely,

[Insert Your Name Here]

Juanita J. Basham

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Click here to help spread the word and forward to a friend. Simply type a short message and send them a link to this Web page.

*Yes, we want
to keep V.R.S.;
it helps me
alot that
I am very
happy with
it.*

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JUN 23 2009
FCC Mail Room

Pamela Kovash
3108 Brian Meadows Pl NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120

June 17, 2009

RE: CG Docket No. 03-123
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
445 Twelfth Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

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JUN 23 2009

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JUN 23 2009
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Sincerely,

Jessica Adams

Date:

06-17-09

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Received & Inspected

JUN 23 2009

FCC Mail Room

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Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

445 Twelfth Street SW

Washington, DC 20554

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Sincerely,


Help us!

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Received & Inspected 8/18/09
JUN 23 2009
FCC Mail Room

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445 Twelfth Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

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Sincerely,

Thelma Linton
Thelma Linton

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Received & Inspected

JUN 23 2009

FCC Mail Room

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear FCC:

CG Docket 03-123

It is my understanding that the Federal Communications Commission is considering a change to Video Relay Service that would greatly discourage the investments that have improved VRS service, and delay even further the "functional equivalence" mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

VRS is a life altering technology for a deaf person. It allows us to communicate in American Sign Language, our native language, over distance, something that no other technology allows. The passage of the provision in the Americans with Disabilities Act requiring functional equivalence was a landmark for improving the lives of deaf people. While VRS holds the promise of true functional equivalence, there is still much to be done to reach that goal, to improve VRS service and make it available to more deaf people.

The FCC provided a stable, predictable, and fair rate plan to VRS providers in 2007 that was to last for three years. At the time, the FCC stated clearly that one of the motivations behind the three year rate plan was to encourage providers to invest in better VRS service, better technology, and better interpreters. It is apparent to VRS users that VRS service is improving. Wait times for calls are shorter, videophones are substantially improved, 911 emergency service is now provided, individual telephone numbers are now available, and we understand that research is underway on technology that will improve VRS even more.

It is unthinkable to me as a deaf person that the FCC would intentionally hurt deaf people by undercutting VRS. Instead the FCC should be demanding more improvements in VRS. At a time when President Obama is insisting on the availability of broadband, particularly for vulnerable populations like the deaf, it is astonishing that the FCC would be heading in the opposite direction, cutting back on a broadband service like VRS that is absolutely essential to the deaf.

The FCC committed to a three year rate plan to improve VRS service, and it has worked. How can the FCC now suggest that it is going to renege on that commitment?

I urge you as strongly as I cannot to shut down the investment and improvements in VRS, and instead to make better VRS available to more deaf people.

Sincerely,

Name Helen Chism Street Address: 39267 WALNUT TERRACE
City, State, Zip Code FREMONT, CA 94536
E-mail Address: HRChism@comcast.net

RE: CG Docket No. 03-123
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
445 Twelfth Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

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JUN 23 2009

FCC Mail Room

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Sincerely,

Vicky Moreno

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JUN 23 2009
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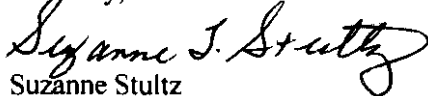
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Sincerely,



Suzanne Stultz
Sstultz119@aol.com

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JUN 23 2009

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Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
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Sincerely,


Miriam A. Herman

Received & Inspected

Gayle Ellis

JUN 23 2009
FCC Mail Room

4538 Kraft Avenue

Studio City, CA 91602-2008

June 17, 2009

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Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

445 Twelfth Street SW

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Thomas D. Glascoe



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JUN 23 2009
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